

Appl. No. 09/216,545

Amendment dated July 8, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 32-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article further comprising:

a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

E 1 b) a pair of opposed elastic back panels which are respectively permanently attached to said side edge edges of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article;

c) a pair of opposed elastic front panels which are respectively refastenably attached to said side edge edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint wherein said front panel and said back panel on each side edge of said absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article;

d) a fastener located on each of said front panels which is releasably engaged with said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to provide said refastenable joint; and

e) a releasable bond located on each of said front panels which releasably bonds ~~said front panels to said side edges~~ each front panel to said respective side edge of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to assist in maintaining said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article in said prefastened condition.

Claim 41 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said absorbent chassis comprises:

a) an outer cover;

b) a bodyside liner which is connected to said outer cover in a superposed relation; and

c) an absorbent core disposed between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.

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Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop fasteners.

Claim 43 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 and further comprising at least one attachment panel which is located on said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged to said attachment panel.

Claim 44 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 41 wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to said outer cover of said absorbent chassis.

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Claim 45 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein each of said side seams defines a lateral outboard edge of said article.

Claim 46 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds include at least one point bond.

Claim 47 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds are ultrasonic bonds.

Claim 48 (Original): The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds define a peel strength of no more than about 1500 grams.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, an absorbent chassis which defines a pair of opposed side edges and a pair of opposed waist edges, wherein said pant-like, disposable absorbent article is made by a process which comprises:

a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis;

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b) permanently attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic back panels to said side edges of ~~each of~~ said absorbent chassis in ~~one of said front waist region or said back waist region~~ to provide a permanent joint;

c) refastenably attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic front panels to said side edges of ~~each of~~ said absorbent chassis in said ~~opposite front~~ waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint, wherein refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region;

81 d) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;

e) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said front panels and said back panels in a facing relationship; and

f) permanently connecting said front panels ~~and said back panels~~ panel and said back panel one each side edge of the absorbent chassis together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

[Claims 50-52 (Canceled)]